

constant threat of the war, witnessing their friends injured or killed. Brave medics in the field and the doctors, nurses and corps men at hospitals worked tirelessly and risked their lives to save countless soldiers. There was little time to mourn those that died because no one knew what tomorrow would bring. How bravely they answered the call only to be scorned by many of their fellow countrymen and women when they returned home.

Now fifty years later, we have a better understanding of the extraordinary sacrifice made by this generation of patriots. We question, how then could we as a nation fail to understand that the soldier follows the orders of the Commander-in-Chief. To disagree is our given right but to fail to support our troops who are sent to battle should never happen again. Over 58,000 Americans died in Vietnam; 14,095 were just 20 years of age and several of them were my college classmates. Those men and women had their dreams and names forever etched in stone as a reminder that their sacrifice was their life. Even those that survived did not return unscathed. Many returned home with physical and emotional pains of war to a country that had turned a deaf ear to their needs. Those Vietnam Veterans, like the generation before, came home to raise their families and continued to contribute to our country. Many have passed away, but all have left their imprint on their families and our nation.

For those families still waiting for the return of their soldiers, it has been a long, mournful time. Recently John Adam was returned home after missing for 41 years. On May 22, 1968, twenty-year-old Air Force, Senior Master Sergeant John Adam disappeared while serving in Vietnam. His remains were located near Laos and identified through DNA. Now one family has closure; however, many of our veterans remain missing and the prayers continue.

So, on September 12, 2009, fifty years after the first casualty in Vietnam I, as the United States Representative of Missouri's 5th District, will host a Town Hall event at the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, to honor the men and women who courageously served in that war—to finally give them the respect and honor they deserve as heroes of our country. Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking and appreciating the sacrifices of a great generation of American Patriots, our Vietnam Veterans.

TEXAS H. CON. RES. 120

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, at the request of the Secretary of State of the State of Texas, I am officially entering House Concurrent Resolution 120, as passed by the 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009 of the State of Texas, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas, South Texas is on the front line of the battle against the fever tick, a pest that threatens to inflict catastrophic losses on the beef industry should it continue to spread beyond a permanent quarantine zone established along the Rio Grande in 1943; and

Whereas, Historically, the fever tick ranged across the entire southeastern United States, reaching as far north as Maryland and Pennsylvania; the tick can carry and transmit a parasite that causes cattle tick fever, which kills up to 90 percent of infected cattle; in 1893, the Texas Animal Health Commission was founded to fight this scourge, and in 1907 the United States Department of Agriculture established the National Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program; by then, the tick had already caused direct and indirect economic losses estimated to equal more than \$1 billion in today's dollars; and

Whereas, The eradication program had successfully contained the fever tick to an 852-square-mile quarantine zone by 1943; the tick was never eliminated in Mexico, however, and personnel from the USDA Tick Force have maintained a high level of vigilance to fight continuous reintroduction; after the pest was detected beyond the zone in 2007, five temporary preventive quarantine areas were established, covering more than one million acres in Starr, Zapata, Jim Hogg, Maverick, Dimmit, and Webb Counties; and

Whereas, In March 2008, the Texas Department of Agriculture requested some \$13 million to fight the spread of fever ticks; the USDA released \$5.2 million, and in January 2009 it committed another \$4.9 million in emergency funds, but sustained funding over the long term is essential; moreover, the National Fever Tick Eradication Strategic Plan, developed and approved by the USDA in 2006, has never been implemented and funded, and Dr. Bob Hillman, the state veterinarian and executive director of the Texas Animal Health Commission, has warned that fever ticks are a national livestock threat that requires an all-out assault; and

Whereas, The fever tick has gained substantial ground in this state, but the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas Animal Health Commission, and the USDA Tick Force continue working diligently with cattle owners to save a key component of the Lone Star State's agricultural economy and prevent the battlefield from extending to other states; if the fever tick is not contained, the cost to the cattle industry could easily approach \$1 billion a year and lead to rising food costs for consumers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to make eradication of the fever tick in South Texas a priority and continue to provide appropriate funding and resources for this effort; and be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution H.C.R. No. 120 be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

GUILLÉN GONZÁLEZ
TOUREILLES LEIBOWITZ,
King of Zavalá.

DAVID DEWHURST,
President of the Senate.

JOE STRAUS,
Speaker of the House.

ROBERT HANEY,
Chief Clerk of the House.

I certify that H.C.R. No. 120 was adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2009, by a viva-voce vote.

PATSY SPAU,
Secretary of the Senate.

APPROVED: June 19, 2009. Rick Perry, Governor.

FOOD SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Food Safety Enhancement Act (H.R. 2749), and to commend the Committees on Agriculture and Energy and Commerce for their hard work in crafting the bill.

According to a 2005 study by the Centers for Disease Control, each year 76 million people (25 percent of the population) become sick, 325,000 are hospitalized and 5,000 die from foodborne illnesses in the United States. In recent years, the United States has experienced many incidents of food contamination, caused by biological and man-made toxins. For example, in 2000, various brands of taco shells were found to be contaminated with genetically modified corn meant only for animal feed. In the fall of 2006, spinach contaminated with *E. coli* bacteria resulted in more than 200 confirmed illnesses and at least three deaths. In 2007, various products imported from China were found to contain wheat gluten contaminated with the industrial chemical melamine, which killed more than a dozen house pets. And recently, people across the country were infected with *Salmonella* bacteria from eating peanut products from a processing plant in Georgia. Even contaminated cookie dough has ended up in the food supply.

Therefore I commend my colleagues Chairman Emeritus DINGELL, Chairman WAXMAN, Mr. PALLONE and Mr. STUPAK for their firm and comprehensive response to this torrent of food contamination incidents, and for crafting the bill before us today. In addition, I want to acknowledge my colleague Ms. DELAURO for her own substantial efforts to improve food safety, and her contributions to this bill. It would make many important improvements to our food safety regulations, including creating an up-to-date registry of all food facilities serving American consumers, requiring foreign and domestic food facilities to have safety plans in place to identify and mitigate hazards, and require high-risk food facilities to be inspected every 12 months, and low-risk facilities to be inspected every 18 months. It also requires the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, to develop a system which would expedite import processing for importers who agree to adhere to enhanced safety and security guidelines, and expands FDA trace-back capabilities in the event of a foodborne illness.

In particular, I want to thank the Committees for responding to many of the concerns raised by the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition and constituents from my district that the bill would negatively impact small, family-owned, and organic farms. For example, the bill before us today provides an exemption from traceability and registration for direct farmer-to-consumer marketing, an exemption for food, facilities and farms that are already regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and an exemption for grain and hay farmers from full-scale electronic traceability